(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The endeavor of Government through NRHM is to provide accessible, affordable and quality health care to rural population, especially the vulnerable sections. Rural areas across the nation are being provided the primary health care services through a network of 145272 Sub Centres (SCs), 22370 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and 4045 Community Health Centres (CHCs) as on March, 20O7.Under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), funds are released to State/UT Governments for upgradation of the existing SCs, PHCs and CHCs and for establishment of new SCs, PHCs and CHCs on the basis of annual Programme Implementation Plan (PIP) submitted by the States which are approved by the National Programme Coordination Committee (NPCC).These funds are released as a flexipool for States to be spent on the basis of activities prioritized by them under the Flexipool approved by the NPCC.

Health care in rural areas

1360.SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Reports submitted by various agencies like WHO and National Rural Health Mission have recommended for providing health care particularly in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the steps Government is taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The need for comprehensive improvements in health care delivery system particularly in Rural areas has been pointed out in several reports and forums.

To address this need, the Government has launched National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) on 12th April 2005 for the period 2005-2012. NRHM aims to provide accessible, affordable and accountable quality health services to the poorest households in the remotest rural regions. Under NRHM, 18 States including Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Orissa and Rajasthan, eight North-East States, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir were classified as special focus States.

The thrust of NRHM is on establishing a fully functional, community owned, decentralized health delivery system. NRHM facilitates simultaneous action on collateral determinants of health like water, sanitation, education, nutrition, etc. Under NRHM Institutional integration has been carried out in the health sector and performance is benchmarked against Indian Public Health Standards. The NRHM seeks to compensate various gaps through enhanced funding, local untied and flexible funds and overall capacity building in the health system.

NRHM has been operationalised in all the States in a decentralized manner on basis of Annual State Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) which are appraised/approved by the national Programme Coordination Committee at GoI level.